

of the New Jersey Chapter and Foundation of the March of Dimes says that this type of legislation should be carried out in all states and was indeed the driving force that caused New Jersey to pass similar legislative action. It is not that difficult. As I said, if we can prevent miscarriages to the female applicants we can prevent birth defects to those who are child bearing. I think that this legislation has an obligation to do so. This is not a difficult piece of legislation to abide by. I have had letters from various organizations concerned, the Crippled Children's Commission, the National March of Dimes, medical profession, even members of the clergy who advise me that this legislation is indeed a good piece of legislation. I ask for the advancement of LB 737 to E & R Initial.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Chair recognizes Senator Richard Lewis.

SENATOR R. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature. We heard this bill in the Public Health Committee more than once and the first time that we heard it there was a feeling among several opponents that came in and testified that this was a needless, useless gesture. They presented enough opposition that we felt perhaps we were not justified in reporting it out. But, in last session, in this past session when we heard this bill, the past series of hearings, I was convinced and I don't think that there was any other member that was not convinced that this is a useful and needed bill. I would urge your support of LB 737.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Chair recognizes Senator Venditte.

SENATOR VENDITTE: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Senator Koch, you asked me what my feelings were on this particular piece of legislation and I guess I have to reaffirm my opposition as I did the last time when we were discussing this bill. I think that when we are presenting statistics, statistical information as you presented Senator Koch I think they would be more useful to us if you would give us information relative to the State of Nebraska. Basically, that is what I am concerned about at this point in time. I look at the State of Nebraska and the number of reported cases of German measles here. If we look just in Douglas County alone Senator Koch, in Douglas County alone there were no cases of rubella or German measles reported last year. Not a single case. Yet, we are contemplating with the fiscal note attached to this bill and spending something like \$18,500. The State Health Department state wide last year recorded only three cases. I don't know what the statistics are relative to the number of young people entering kindergarden or other public schools state wide, but I can tell you in Douglas County 90% of all students, 90% of all students entering kindergarden the current year, last year, had been immunized, the State Health Department went on to say that this estimate is even higher in the upper grades. The concern that I have is the fiscal impact, that some \$18,000 this year, I'm not sure what the projected cost will be in the next two, five, seven, ten, or twelve years from now. For me I have not had a single doctor call me in support of this particular piece of legislation. On the contrary I have contacted a number of physicians and their comment was overwhelmingly that this is a particular piece of legislation that is and that we are in a position now that we are trying to legislate, I think, a little bit to much. I certainly would have to concur with their feelings.